

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment/Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment filed 2/29/2008 with a request to reconsider the rejection of claims filed in the Final office action on 11/30/2007 in view of the arguments filed 2/29/2008 is entered.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-4, filed 2/29/2008, with respect to prior art rejection of claims 1-28 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-28 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment for claim 22 was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Zach Stern on 5/8/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 22 (Currently amended). An information processor apparatus which checks out a content to an external device connected thereto or checks in the content from an external device connected thereto, the apparatus comprising:

a display device including at least one of hardware and computer readable instructions saved in a computer readable medium configured to display a title corresponding to the content and a number of possible checkouts for the content;

a content checkout setting device including at least one of hardware and computer readable instructions saved in a computer readable medium configured to simultaneously set a first plurality of selected contents to be checked out to the external device prior to checking out the first plurality of selected contents; and

a contents checkout device including at least one of hardware and computer readable instructions saved in a computer readable medium configured to simultaneously check out the first plurality of selected contents set by the content checkout setting device;

wherein the number of possible checkouts represents a number that is incremented by one when at least one content from the first plurality of selected contents is checked back into the apparatus.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the display controlling unit if is further configured to change the existing number of possible checkouts to a one for the at least one content from the second plurality of selected contents checked in by the check-in device.

(Note: Claim 26 has a typographical error and hence this amendment).

3. Claims 1-28 are allowed

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1

The applicant's arguments (see pages 2-4 filed on 2/29/2008) are persuasive that prior art, alone or combined, does not anticipate or render obvious an information processor apparatus which checks out a content to an external device connected thereto or checks in the content from an external device connected thereto, comprising as a whole, a display device displaying a title corresponding to the content; a content checkout setting device simultaneously setting a first plurality of selected contents to be checked out to the external device prior to checking out the first plurality of selected contents, a contents checkout device configured to simultaneously checking out the first plurality of selected contents set by the content checkout setting device, displaying a number of possible checkouts for at least one content from the plurality of content and wherein the number of possible checkouts represents a number that is incremented by one when at least one content from the first plurality of selected contents is checked back into the apparatus.

The prior art of record which examiner considered most remarkable was Epstein (US Patent 7,134,145) in view of "SoundJam MP Plus Manual, ver. 2.0", dated March 2000 most remarkable but, as per the arguments of the applicant (pages 2-4 filed on

2/29/2008) do not any more qualify as prior art reference in view of the perfected priority dates of the present application.

Kamibayashi et al. (US 6,847,950 B1. See at least Abstract, Fig.1 and col.4, line 44-col.5, line 62) discloses some features similar to those recited in the above – indicated allowed claim 1, Kamibayashi still fails to teach the above noted features, as a whole. Kamibayashi teaches checking out a content, such as a music data, to an external device {MC 13] and when the external device does “Checkin”, that is allowing the device 1 [LCM 1] to erase or disable the earlier copied content on the external device and causes the device 1 to regain the right to produce one more copy. But Kamibayashi does not teach, as a whole, displaying a title corresponding to the content; a content checkout setting device simultaneously setting a first plurality of selected contents to be checked out to the external device prior to checking out the first plurality of selected contents, a contents checkout device configured to simultaneously checking out the first plurality of selected contents set by the content checkout setting device, displaying a number of possible checkouts for at least one content from the plurality of content and wherein the number of possible checkouts represents a number that is incremented by one when at least one content from the first plurality of selected contents is checked back into the apparatus.

Regarding other independent claims 8, 15 and 22, their limitations are closely parallel to the limitations of claim 1 and are therefore allowed for the same reasons as set forth for claim 1 above.

Regarding dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21 and 23-28 they are allowed for the same reasons as set forth for claim 1 above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex/Hoteling.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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